

# MAPUTO FORCES KILL 101 BANDITS

MAPUTO.

**MOZAMBICAN security forces killed 101 bandits and captured large quantities of arms in two districts of southern Maputo province in the past 10 days, Noticias newspaper reported.**

It quoted Maputo provincial military commander Major - General Salvador Mutumukwe as saying the MNR bandits were killed in Manhica and Magude districts, where the government last week said another 63 insurgents had died during clashes with government troops last month.

The bandit casualties reported yesterday follow the capture on August 28 of the MNR headquarters, Casa Banana, in Sofala province by combined Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces.

Noticias correspondent at the front Filipe Ribas reports that the latest fighting has occurred mainly along the line of national highway number one, which links Maputo to the north, and close to the railway from Maputo which passes through the districts of Manhica, Magude and Moamba.

## *Ambushes*

The clashes reported by Ribas follow the destruction of a major bandit base at Malengane, about 50 km north of Maputo, on August 26. Malengane was used as the main base for a series of murderous ambushes on the north-south highway.

Ribas writes that two days after the seizure of Malengane, the MNR mounted a counter-attack to reoccupy the base. They were driven back and lost a further 20 men.

Mozambican officers now believe that the most important MNR positions in Maputo province have been overrun.

Maputo provincial military commander General Mutumuke stressed, however, that "our operations will continue with the same intensity, because our aim is the total elimination of banditry in this zone". — Ziana-Reuter-AIM.

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